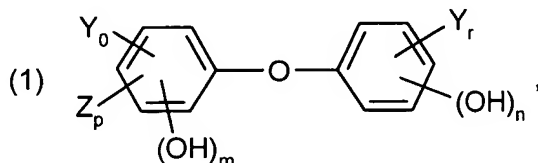


## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A method of inhibiting melanogenesis and for lightening skin, which comprises contacting said skin with a composition comprising

from 0.001 to 10 % based on weight of said composition of component (a) which is a halogenated hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula



wherein

Y is chlorine or bromine,

Z is SO<sub>2</sub>H, NO<sub>2</sub>; or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl;

m is 0 or 1;

n is 1 or 2;

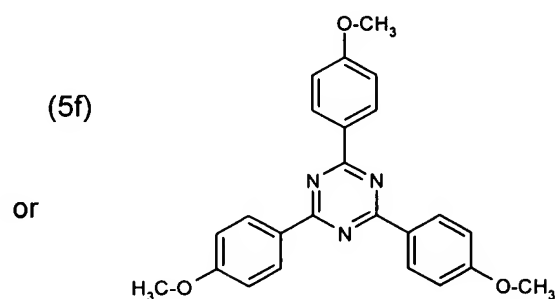
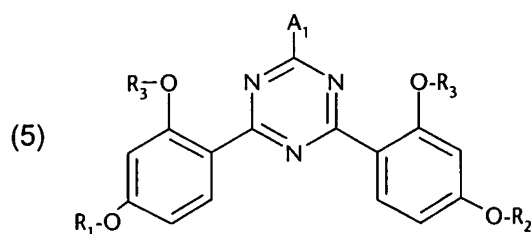
r is from 0 to 3;

o is from 1 to 3; and

p is 0, 1 or 2;

from ~~0.01 to 20.05 to 1~~ % based on weight of said composition of component (b) which is a skin-lightening substance selected from the group consisting of ~~kojic acid~~, arbutin, quercitin, aloesin, azelaic acid, guaiol, ellagic acid and ester compounds thereof and fluorescent whiteners; and

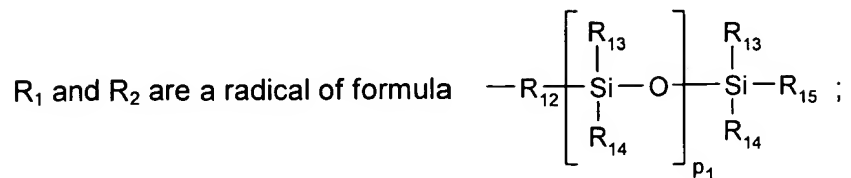
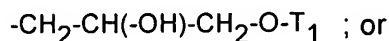
from 0.1 to 15 % based on weight of said composition of component (c) which is a triazine UV absorber compound of formula



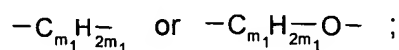
or

wherein

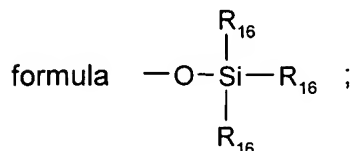
$R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each independently of the other  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl;  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkenyl; a radical of formula



$R_{12}$  is a direct bond; a straight-chain or branched  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkylene radical or a radical of formula



$R_{13}$ ,  $R_{14}$  and  $R_{15}$  are each independently of the others  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl;  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkoxy or a radical of

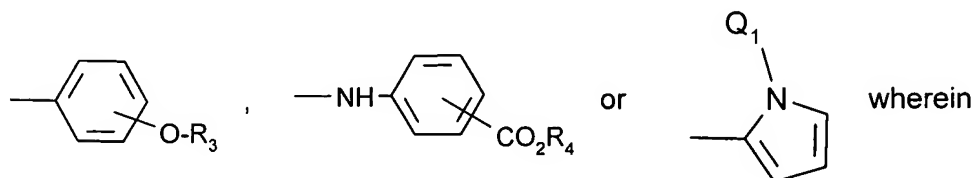


$R_{16}$  is  $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkyl;

$m_1$  and  $m_3$  are each independently of the other from 1 to 4;

$p_1$  is 0 or a number from 1 to 5;

$A_1$  is a radical of formula



$R_3$  is hydrogen;  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$ alkyl,  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CHR}_5\text{-O})_{n_1}\text{-R}_4$ ; or a radical of formula  $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}(-\text{OH})\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-T}_1$ ;

$R_4$  is hydrogen; M;  $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkyl; or a radical of formula  $-(\text{CH}_2)_{m_2}\text{-O-T}_1$  ;

$R_5$  is hydrogen; or methyl;

$T_1$  is hydrogen; or  $C_1$ - $C_8$ alkyl;

$Q_1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl;

M is a metal cation;

$m_2$  is from 1 to 4; and

$n_1$  is 1-16.

2. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein in formula (1)

m is 0; or 1;

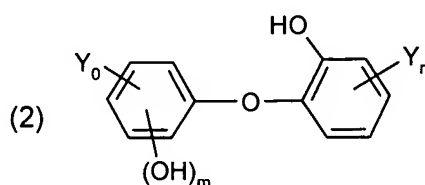
n is 1; or 2;

o is from 1 to 3;

p is 0; or 1; and

r is 1 or 2.

3. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



wherein

m is 0; or 1;

o is from 1 to 3; and

r is 1 or 2.

4. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein in formula (2)

m is 0;

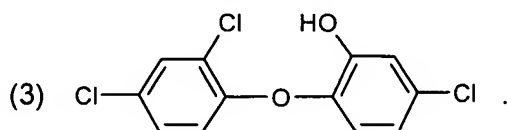
and o and r are as defined in claim 3.

5. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein

o is 1 or 2; and

r is 1.

6. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound corresponds to formula



7. (cancelled).

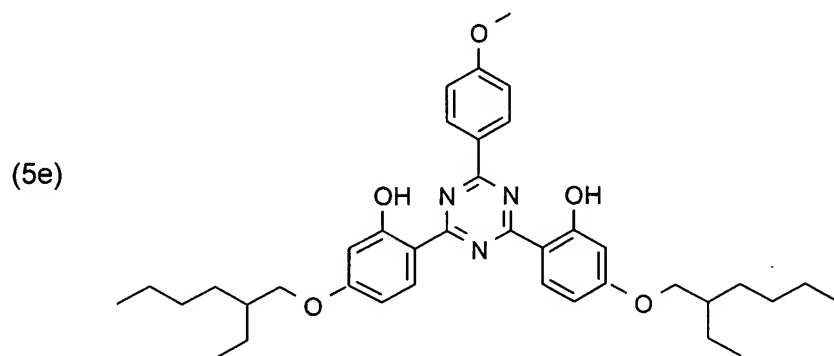
8. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ether compound of formula (1) is used simultaneously for the antimicrobial treatment of the skin and mucosa and integumentary appendages.

9-10. (cancelled).

11. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of components (a) : (b) is from 1 : 99 to 99 : 1 by weight.

12-13. (cancelled).

14. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises as component (c) the compound of formula



15-29. (cancelled).